



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 3 October 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The San Mateo County Times reports that San Mateo, Hillsborough, and the county-run Crystal Springs sanitation districts in California must collectively pay more than \$1.7 million in fines to a regional enforcement agency for discharging raw sewage into streets, creeks, and the San Francisco Bay in violation of the Clean Water Act. (See item [24](#))
- According to the Army Times, beginning October 1 for 12 months, the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team will be under the day-to-day control of U.S. Army North, the Army service component of Northern Command, as an on-call federal response force for natural or manmade emergencies and disasters, including terrorist attacks. (See item [32](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** ELEVATED, **Cyber:** ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 2, Lompoc Record* – (California) **Greka again fails to meet EPA order.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Wednesday that it would assume control of a portion of the clean-up activities at a Greka Oil and Gas Inc. facility south of Santa Maria because deadlines had not been met. The Greka Gato Ponds were cited in March because oil was leaking from the cracked concrete pools near Sisquoc Creek. A spokesman says the ponds were filled with crude oil, lube oil and sediments. EPA officials acknowledged that the ponds have been emptied, but that occurred after

the August 31 deadline. The federal agency will now take over the most critical clean-up activities and soil contamination assessments by October 20, and then seek reimbursement from Greka for the cost. This is the third time the EPA has taken over clean up of a Greka lease in Santa Barbara County.

Source:

<http://www.lompocrecord.com/articles/2008/10/02/news/centralcoast/news%2005.txt>

2. *October 1, Bloomberg* – (Texas) **Shell has fire at Deer Park, Texas, refinery after gasket leak.** Royal Dutch Shell Plc. said a gasket flange leak on a unit at its Deer Park, Texas, refinery ignited Tuesday and burned for more than two hours. The leak and fire occurred about 8 p.m. as refinery operators were starting the Plat 2 unit Tuesday night after it had been shut down last month in preparation for Hurricane Ike, according to a filing on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Web site. There were no "visible emissions" as a result of the fire, the report said. The incident is now under investigation, Shell said in the filing. Feedstock to the reactor was discontinued after the leak was discovered, and operators focused on extinguishing the flames. Shell's Emergency Response Team was dispatched to help tackle the blaze and keep the surrounding equipment cool, the report said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601207&sid=aIHMriDwy8jM&refer=energy>

3. *October 1, KRIS 6 Corpus Christi* – (Texas) **State representative asks for investigation into bad gasoline.** A state representative has asked for an investigation to be done concerning the fuel pump problems in some vehicles that may have been caused by bad fuel. Local auto dealerships and repair shops have seen a significant increase in fuel pump failures. Also, a lot of mechanics said the problems are being caused by gasoline with too much sulfur in it. On Tuesday, the state representative contacted the Texas Department of Agriculture concerning the complaints of bad gasoline. The agency, accompanied with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, said they are not responsible for the types of complaints coming from the Coastal Bend. "That is the other question: what is the chain of custody between the refined product and that in which is delivered to the end customer? Is there or is there not a way to tamper with the product?" he questioned. "I think it calls into question the security of fuel," he added. "It becomes a public security and public safety issue, and one that necessitates further investigation."

Source: http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9102462&nav=menu192_2_6_7

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *October 1, Beaufort Gazette* – (South Carolina) **Chemical spill shuts down Sam's Point, keeps Beaufort Academy students indoors.** A chemical spill in front of Beaufort Academy caused a scare Wednesday afternoon that forced authorities to keep about 200 students in the school's gymnasium and reroute traffic off a major Lady's Island thoroughfare for more than two hours. Firefighters from the Lady's Island-St.

Helena Fire District were called at 3:45 p.m. to Sam's Point Road in front of Beaufort Academy, where Beaufort County Sheriff's Office deputies reported about four gallons of a green, acid-like substance in the roadway. A half-mile stretch of Sam's Point Road was shut down and students at Beaufort Academy had to be moved indoors, as the unknown liquid posed a respiratory hazard. Members of the Northern Beaufort County Hazardous Materials Team removed the liquid from the roadway, and traffic was moving again about 6 p.m.

Source: <http://www.beaufortgazette.com/local/story/573023.html>

5. *October 1, York Daily Record* – (Pennsylvania) **Chemical leak resolved in Newberry Township.** Hazardous materials (HazMat) technicians from York County, Dauphin County, and officials from the Department of Environmental Protection have stopped a chlorine leak in Newberry Township, according a spokesman for the York County Office of Emergency Management. The HazMat teams found a leaking, 100-pound drum down a stream embankment in the 800 block of Old Trail Road. The Dauphin County HazMat crews brought specialized equipment to make it safe to remove and transport the drum. Two homes and a restaurant were evacuated because of the chlorine leak and officials have asked residents to avoid the area or use caution if travel was necessary there.

Source: http://ydr.inyork.com/ci_10611727

6. *September 30, Times Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Dow Chemical plant unveils storm shelter in Hahnville.** On Monday, the Dow Chemical cut the ribbon on a \$4.6 million emergency operations center with a second-floor operations room that is 23 feet above sea level and designed to withstand 200-mph winds. The building currently has extensive monitoring and communications systems, but there are plans to install controls that could shut down individual production units. More industrial plants in the parish have built hardened control rooms with storms in mind since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Valero built a new site for its St. Charles refinery. The Shell Chemical plant and the adjacent Motiva Enterprises oil refinery opened twin blast and storm-resistant control rooms in 2006. And St. Charles Parish is working to build a new emergency operations center after receiving a \$750,000 grant for that purpose from the Department of Homeland Security.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/metro/index.ssf?/base/news-31/1222781484260590.xml&coll=1&thispage=1>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *October 1, Lower Hudson Journal News* – (New York) **Indian Point to create emergency center outside evacuation zone.** Indian Point officials promised Tuesday to build an emergency operations center outside the nuclear plant's 10-mile evacuation zone, a move welcomed by local officials. The location and the cost of the new emergency center have yet to be determined, said a spokesman for Entergy Nuclear. Creating the new site is one of the recommendations of a special panel that examined safety at the Buchanan site. "We haven't decided whether we'll construct a new

building or outfit an existing building,” the spokesman said. “We have an (emergency operations center) at our offices in White Plains, but it has only essential equipment and would not suffice as a primary site.” Emergency officials from Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, and Orange counties have called for such a center for a long time, saying the need is critical in the event that an evacuation of the plant would be required. “All along we’ve said it’s a cramped and outdated and inadequate facility,” said Westchester County’s commissioner of emergency services. “We have not brought up a location, but it must be secure and close to major highways. We’d like to see it include the (region’s) Joint Information Center. There’s no room where we are now.”

Source: <http://lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081001/NEWS02/810010371/-1/SPORTS>

8. *September 30, WSJM 1400 St. Joseph* – (Michigan) **Cook plant to hold “hostile action” drill.** The Cook nuclear power plant will be holding a special emergency drill this week. A spokesman says that on Wednesday, the plant will stage a “hostile action” drill, which simulates a problem at the facility caused by a security issue, rather than the usual natural disasters or equipment failures.

Source: <http://wsjm.com/Cook-Plant-To-Hold--Hostile-Action--Drill/3059185>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *October 1, Air Force Times* – (National) **Final mission for venerable MH-53.** Six Pave Low helicopters touched down at 1:53 a.m. on September 27 at an undisclosed base after the storied heavy-lift helicopter’s last mission. Air Force Special Operations Command officials said the MH-53s flew special operators and equipment to an undisclosed destination in Iraq. The fact the MH-53s’ last mission was in Iraq and one that needed to be protected because of its sensitive nature is a source of pride for its current and former aircrews, said a MH-53 pilot and the 20th Special Operations Squadron’ assistant director of operations. The Air Force has gradually phased out the Pave Low with plans to have the CV-22 Osprey tilt rotor replace it while also flying missions the MH-53 couldn’t.

Source:

http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/09/airforce_mh53_retirement_093008w/

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 2, Reuters* – (National) **SEC extends short sale ban to give Congress time.** U.S. securities regulators on Wednesday extended an emergency ban on short selling in more than 950 financial stocks to give Congress time to finish legislation to rescue the financial system. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said the ban would expire three business days after a \$700 billion federal bailout bill was enacted, but would not last beyond October 17. The SEC rules, issued on September 19, include one that requires big money managers to publicly disclose their short positions. That

temporary order will expire on October 17, but the SEC said it intends to make that rule permanent. The SEC also said it extended a curb on abusive short selling rules, including one that makes it fraudulent for short sellers to deceive broker-dealers about their intention or ability to deliver securities in time for settlement. Equity and option market makers will continue to be exempt from the short sale ban on financial stocks, in order to ensure liquidity in the markets.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE49107K20081002?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0>

11. *October 2, Redmond Magazine* – (National) **Payment card security toughens with DSS 1.2 release.** The Payment Card Industry Council on Wednesday released an updated version of its PCI data security standard, which is designed to help protect transmitted charge and debit card information. The standard calls for enterprises to build and maintain secure networks, protect stored cardholder data, and encrypt its transmission. In addition, PCI DSS 1.2 spells out a comprehensive vulnerability management program. Steps under the program include access control testing, system monitoring, and the implementation of documented enterprise-wide security policies. Experts say that a beefed-up security and monitoring program can be folded into audit programs to meet both PCI compliance requirements and Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 guidelines for general computer controls and application security.

Source: <http://redmondmag.com/news/article.asp?EditorialsID=10260>

12. *October 1, New York Times* – (National) **Senate passes bailout plan; House may vote by Friday.** The Senate strongly endorsed the \$700 billion economic bailout plan on Wednesday, leaving backers optimistic that the House will accept it by Friday and end the legislative uncertainty that has rocked the markets. The Senate margin was 74 to 25 in favor of the White House initiative to buy troubled securities in an effort to avoid an economic catastrophe. Besides additional tax breaks for individuals and businesses, senators also included a temporary increase in the amount of bank deposits covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, to \$250,000 from \$100,000. After receiving the proposal from the Treasury Secretary almost two weeks ago, Congress instituted a series of changes, including additional oversight, steps to limit home foreclosures, and restrictions on the compensation of executives of institutions that take part in the Treasury program. Under pressure to tighten the plan even more, Congressional and administration negotiators decided to parcel out the \$700 billion in installments, starting with a first tranche of \$350 billion. They added a final requirement that in five years the president must present Congress with a plan to make up any losses of tax funds by looking to the financial community to make up the difference.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/business/02bailout.html?pagewanted=1&_r=2&hp&adxnlnx=1222952764-kvEVIex0kl%20SLTFtIdodgQ

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Transportation Sector

13. *October 2, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Senate approves \$1.5 billion plan for Metro funding.** The U.S. Senate voted last night to authorize long-sought federal funding for Washington's cash-strapped and aging Metro system, clearing a major hurdle toward providing \$1.5 billion over 10 years to help maintain the nation's second-busiest rail system. The bill, part of a major rail safety reform package with billions of dollars for Amtrak, was passed by the House last week and goes to the president for signing. Supporters say a veto is unlikely, partly because of the veto-proof margin of last night's 74 to 24 vote. Although several other requirements must be met before Congress begins appropriating the funds, last night's vote was critical because the Senate had never voted on the plan. With this step, officials predicted that the federal money could become available next fall. Metro is the nation's only major transit agency without a significant source of dedicated funding, such as a portion of a sales or gas tax. The money would be used to buy rail cars and buses, and repair leaky tunnels and deteriorating station platforms.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/01/AR2008100103403.html?hpid=topnews>
14. *October 2, Associated Press* – (National) **Train engineer texted 22 seconds before L.A. crash.** A commuter train engineer sent a cell phone text message 22 seconds before his commuter train crashed head-on into freight train in Southern California last month, killing 25 people, federal investigators said Wednesday. The finding led the federal railroad administrator to announce an emergency order prohibiting use of personal electronic devices by rail workers operating trains and in other key jobs. The order must be published in the Federal Register to take effect.
Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/158664>
15. *October 1, Star-Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Union: FAA supervisor let manager make big error.** A supervisor at Flying Cloud Airport took a call on a cell phone and had his back turned when a manager he was training mistakenly allowed an airport vehicle to cross the runway in front of a plane, the union for air traffic controllers said Wednesday. A Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said the agency is reviewing the incident, which happened September 22 at the airport in suburban Eden Prairie.
Source: <http://www.kxmb.com/News/Nation/281468.asp>
16. *October 1, Dallas Business Journal* – (National) **Southwest begins "fly by" security lanes at select airports.** Southwest Airlines Co. said Wednesday it is rolling out priority security lanes for Business Select and Rapid Reward A-List Customers at certain airports later this month. Dallas-based Southwest says the priority lanes, which are branded "Fly By," are part of an initiative to enhance customer experience by allowing select passengers to move more quickly through the security check-in process. The lanes will be available later this month at Baltimore/Washington International, Dallas Love Field, Phoenix Sky Harbor International, Orange County John Wayne, Denver International, San Francisco International, and Los Angeles International.
Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2008/09/29/daily68.html>

Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *October 1, Reuters* – (National) **Mail carriers to bring drugs in anthrax attack.**

Government mail carriers would deliver emergency supplies of antibiotics to people in U.S. cities in the case of an anthrax attack, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) officials said on Wednesday. The system has been tested in three large cities – Seattle, Philadelphia and Boston – and a pilot program is set to begin soon in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area in Minnesota. The U.S. Postal Service carriers who would bring the antibiotics from door to door would all be volunteers who would have advance supplies of antibiotics to protect themselves and their families. The letter carriers would deliver thousands of doses of doxycycline, an antibiotic that can treat anthrax infection as well as some causes of pneumonia and Lyme disease. Following any new attacks, the mail carriers would be escorted by local police as they deliver supplies of a few days' worth of antibiotics directly to residences throughout an affected community. Officials said more cities could be added starting next year, but none has been selected yet.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26979065/>

18. *October 1, WPRI Providence* – (Rhode Island) **Suspicious powder found, AG's office evacuated.** The Rhode Island Attorney General said the person who sent a letter containing a suspicious substance to his office in Providence will be prosecuted.

A secretary at the Attorney General's office opened up the letter Wednesday morning and found a white powder inside. As a precaution the building was evacuated and a Hazardous Materials Team was called in. Authorities are not sure what the material is and the powder is now being tested. The Attorney General's spokesman said a prisoner may have sent the letter. The Attorney general was in the office at the time. No one was hurt.

Source: <http://www.eyewitnessnewstv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9106726&nav=F2DO>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

19. *October 2, South Coast Today* – (Massachusetts) **Chemical spills at Decas plant.** A small chemical spill at Decas Cranberry Products Inc. sent one employee to the hospital Wednesday, company officials said. Three to five gallons of sulfuric acid spilled in the plant's water filtration facility. An employee whose eyes were exposed to the acid "immediately got under the shower" as he was trained to do, according to the CEO and president of Decas Cranberry. Carver fire officials responded to the spill and called in a hazardous-materials team and a cleanup crew to neutralize the acid.

Source:

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081002/NEWS/810020352/-1/news>

20. *October 1, CIDRAP News* – (National) **FDA awards \$5.2 million for food and feed safety projects.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) yesterday announced that it awarded 17 food and feed safety grants totaling \$5.2 million to state and local

regulatory agencies. The FDA's acting associate commissioner for regulatory affairs said in a statement that the one-year grants are cooperative agreements that are designed to support some of the food protection efforts included in the FDA's Food Protection Plan. The awards address four areas: the ruminant feed ban support program, food safety and security monitoring, innovative food defense, and rapid response teams.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/biosecurity/food-biosec/news/oct0108safety.html>

21. *October 1, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Candy containing melamine has appeared in Connecticut stores.** A chemical blamed for sickening infants in China has been found in candy on American shelves. A Connecticut consumer protection commissioner said Wednesday that tests on White Rabbit Creamy Candy found melamine. It was imported from China and sold primarily at Asian markets. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recommended last week that consumers not eat White Rabbit candy and that retailers remove it. Queensway Foods Company Inc. of California distributed the candy and says it is recalling it.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26978678/>

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Water Sector

22. *October 1, WLWT 5 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **EPA holds water contamination drill in Queen City.** Cincinnati was hand-picked by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a mock emergency of multimillion-dollar proportions. Emergency workers spent the day with instructors, testing the water supply against attack. While working in the emergency command center, workers were aware of the drill, but not the specifics behind the simulated emergency. The local staff had to deal with a simulated contaminated water supply while EPA managers looked on. Hazmat crews, health experts and local emergency responders were put to the test. They not only had to deal with the emergency, but also when and what they tell the public. The EPA poured \$13 million to develop a system in Cincinnati that could serve as a model for the rest of the country. The mock exercise will move to New York and San Francisco next. Water experts from Paris, Lisbon and Tel Aviv were on hand Wednesday to watch Cincinnati's response. On Thursday, the entire team will do a "hot wash" and go over what went right and what went wrong.

Source: <http://www.wlwt.com/health/17601705/detail.html>

23. *October 1, Whittier Daily News* – (California) **Valley likely to get millions for water cleanup.** Efforts to rid San Gabriel Valley water of harmful chemicals and to increase supplies in the face of a statewide drought are likely to get a \$10 million boost thanks to legislation signed by the governor. The money is part of an \$842 million water package approved by the California Governor on Tuesday. The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority will likely get \$10.4 million for its efforts to clean groundwater of perchlorate and other contaminants that stem from the San Gabriel Valley's aerospace industry. The funding is a small step toward the \$420 million still needed for the cleanup endeavor. The governor has signed several other pieces of water-related legislation in recent days,

including measures to increase groundwater quality monitoring; encourage water rate structures that promote conservation; and increase monitoring of lead plumbing.

Source: http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_10613833

24. *October 1, San Mateo County Times* – (California) **San Mateo, Hillsborough and Crystal Springs fined \$1.7 million for discharging sewage.** San Mateo, Hillsborough and the county-run Crystal Springs sanitation districts must collectively pay more than \$1.7 million in fines to a regional enforcement agency for discharging raw sewage into streets, creeks and the San Francisco Bay in violation of the Clean Water Act. The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board announced the fines on Tuesday, which penalize each sanitation district for several years worth of large sewage backups between Dec. 1, 2004 and July 14, 2008. In addition to the fines, the staff of the Regional Water Board is asking board members to approve a collective “cease-and-desist order” that would impose long-term requirements on each sanitation district to do better monitoring of pipeline leaks and come up with lasting solutions. One major, complicating factor is San Mateo’s wastewater treatment plant, which officials say can’t handle all the water it gets from leaky sewer pipes in major storms. The pipes back up as a result. San Mateo is already under orders to upgrade capacity at its wastewater plant by 2013, although the city has no design yet or a proposal for how the city would pay for it. The Regional Water Board has already fined San Mateo \$66,000 for illegal discharges at its wastewater treatment plant since 2000, according to records obtained by the Times.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10613857

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *October 2, Newsday* – (New York) **Officials urge public awareness on MRSA infections.** As cases of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) come into the public eye for the second year in a row, health officials are urging people to practice good hygiene and know what an infection looks like. So far this year, 10 cases of MRSA have been reported in Suffolk County, according to the county health commissioner. Five of these have been reported in the past month. In Nassau County so far this year, there have been three cases, according to a Nassau County health department spokeswoman. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study published last October shocked many health officials when it found that the rate of MRSA was 31.8 cases per 100,000 people — much higher than previously thought. The study also found that it had become the most common skin infection among hospital emergency department patients in the country.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/longisland/ny-limrsa025866552oct02,0,4276110.story>

26. *October 2, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA: No quick decision on cold medicines for kids.** Pediatricians are urging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which scheduled a public hearing Thursday on the issue, to demand a recall of cough and cold

medicines for children younger than 6. “Parents should know that there is less evidence than ever to support the use of over-the-counter cough and cold medicines for young children,” said Baltimore’s health commissioner. “There is nothing that is holding the FDA back from asking for a voluntary recall now of products marketed to kids under 6.” U.S. families spend at least \$286 million a year on such cough and cold remedies for children, according to the Nielsen Co. market research firm. In any given week, the medicines are used by an estimated 10 percent of all children, with the biggest exposure among 2- to 5-year-olds, a recent Boston University report found.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081002/ap_on_he_me/med_cold_medicines

27. *October 1, Agence France-Presse* – (National) **U.S. approves test for human and bird flu.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new test that can rapidly diagnose and identify human influenza infections and human bird flu, the agency announced. The test, developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will be available to CDC-qualified laboratories this year, the FDA said in a statement Tuesday. It uses molecular analysis of viral genetic material taken from secretions in a patient’s nose and throat to detect and identify commonly circulating human influenza viruses as well as H5N1 viruses and other strains.

Source: <http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gO15NKZ4lWPBRxv7tZjtrDiByxxQ>

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Government Facilities Sector

28. *October 1, Jersey Journal* – (New Jersey) **Bomb threats prompt evacuations.** Five separate bomb threats prompted two full evacuations of the State Office Building in Jersey City yesterday as police blocked roads and residents missed out on state services. The first threat was called in at 9:18 a.m. and the last at 1:45 p.m. - and these were the times the building was fully evacuated based on the “threat assessment.” Both times, State Police, Jersey City Police Department and Port Authority canine units sniffed through the building for explosives and found nothing. All five threats were called in to the building, a Police Chief said, adding the investigation is ongoing and no arrests have been made. Twice yesterday police cordoned off eastbound traffic.

Source:

<http://www.nj.com/news/jjournal/jerseycity/index.ssf?/base/news-7/122284234352540.xml&coll=3>

29. *October 1, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (Washington) **White powder found at Kent Justice Center.** Hazardous material teams from Kent, Tukwila and Boeing were analyzing a white powder found Wednesday afternoon by a mailroom employee at the Norm Maleng Regional Justice Center. The incident happened a few hours after the center was evacuated following a call to a Seattle television station saying there was a bomb in the courthouse. The white powder was discovered about 2:20 p.m. The man who found it immediately called 911, and when the Fire Department arrived firefighters isolated the substance and the people involved. The powder analysis was expected to be complete late Wednesday night. Tuesday morning, a Kent police spokesman said a man called the KING/5 news tipline saying there was an incendiary device at the Justice

Center and that it was set to explode at 10 a.m. The station reported the call to police. The building was evacuated and locked down. At least eight bomb-sniffing dogs from the King County Sheriff's Office, State Patrol, Port of Seattle and Department of Homeland Security searched the building, but found no sign of a bomb. Jurors were told they could return at 1 p.m., and the building returned to normal operation until the package was discovered about an hour later. Police were still working Wednesday night to track down the caller.

Source: <http://blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/seattle911/archives/150272.asp>

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *October 2, Seacoast Online* – (Massachusetts; New Hampshire) **Sirens to sound throughout Seacoast.** At 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 25, all 120 Seabrook nuclear power plant emergency sirens across the Seacoast will sound for three to five minutes as part of a test. Authorities do not want people to be scared of the loud, hollow wail and are asking that they do not call their local police departments. Ninety-three of the sirens are in New Hampshire, with the rest in Massachusetts. During the summer of 2007, around midnight on a Friday, a siren inadvertently went off in Amesbury, Massachusetts. Local police departments were flooded with calls. Due to the false, unplanned alarm, there was no message recorded on emergency alert radio stations.
Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20081002-NEWS-810020428>
31. *October 1, WLOX 13 Biloxi* – (Mississippi) **Emergency drill prepares first responders for disaster.** A disaster drill was held Wednesday in Vancleave, Mississippi, to simulate the hijacking and crash of a C-130 Hurricane Hunter airplane. Jackson County's emergency director said he believes the drill will help strengthen the skills of first responders to handle a real catastrophe. Paramedics, firefighters, and police officers rushed to the scene to treat 20 victims and get them to safety. Communication and teamwork were also key elements of the drill. Kessler Air Force Base helped organize the drill and supplied the plane used in the exercise.
Source: <http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=9108469&nav=6DJI>
32. *September 30, Army Times* – (National) **Brigade homeland tours start Oct. 1.** The 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) has spent 35 of the last 60 months in Iraq patrolling in full battle rattle, helping restore essential services and escorting supply convoys. Now they are training for the same mission at home. Beginning October 1 for 12 months, the 1st BCT will be under the day-to-day control of U.S. Army North, the Army service component of Northern Command, as an on-call federal response force for natural or manmade emergencies and disasters, including terrorist attacks. This new mission marks the first time an active unit has been given a dedicated assignment to NorthCom, a joint command established in 2002 to provide command and control for federal homeland defense efforts and coordinate defense support of civil authorities. After 1st BCT finishes its dwell-time mission, expectations are that another, as yet unnamed, active-duty brigade will take over and that the mission will be a permanent one.

Source: http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/09/army_homeland_090708w/

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Information Technology

33. *October 2, VNU Net* – (International) **Malware masquerades as YouTube video.**

Security experts are warning users of a new malware attack posing as a pornographic YouTube video. Researchers at McAfee said that the newly-discovered attack attempts to lure the user to a malicious site by way of a YouTube page promising an adult movie. YouTube's terms of service prohibit the posting of obscene content, and the company removes videos it deems inappropriate. But the attack does not actually post the videos on YouTube. Instead, the attackers have constructed a fake YouTube user account. Forum spam messages are then used to link to the profile pages, which in turn offer 'video' links hosted on an external site. Believing the page to be hosting a legitimate YouTube video, the user follows the link which attempts to perform a number of browser exploits as well as a fake codec attack in which the user is told that an 'additional file' is needed to display the video.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2227350/malware-hides-behind-promise>

34. *October 1, Register* – (International) **DoS attack reveals (yet another) crack in net's core.** Security experts say they have discovered a flaw in a core internet protocol that can be exploited to disrupt just about any device with a broadband connection, a finding that could have profound consequences for millions of people who depend on websites, mail servers, and network infrastructure. The bug in the transmission control protocol affords attackers numerous new ways to carry out denials of service on equipment at the heart of data centers and other sensitive points on the Internet. The new class of attack is especially severe because it can be carried out using very little bandwidth and has the ability to paralyze a server or router even after the flood of malicious data has stopped.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/10/01/fundamental_net_vuln/

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

35. *October 2, TMCnet* – (National) **Hughes Network Systems intros satellite backup service for SMBs.**

Hughes Network Systems announced the availability of its broadband backup service plans for small and medium-sized businesses. These services provide automatic satellite backup in the event of a landline failure. Hughes developed the backup services to overcome network outages and disasters and provide business

continuity to its users. The backup plans are available in two different versions, depending on the type of primary landline service, Internet access, or private network the user has.

Source: <http://satellite.tmcnet.com/topics/satellite/articles/41594-hughes-network-systems-intros-satellite-backup-service-smbs.htm>

36. *October 2, IDG News Service* – (National) **Skype messages being monitored in China, group says.** Tom-Skype, a joint venture in China between eBay's Skype unit and Tom Online, has been known to operate a text filter on text chats, but a new report says that the data is stored insecurely and the text messages and records containing personal data can be easily accessed. Tom-Skype regularly scans text chat messages for politically sensitive keywords, and stores them insecurely, according to a study by researchers in Canada. If the keywords are present, the text messages and records containing personal information are stored on insecure publicly-accessible servers together with the encryption key required to decrypt the data, according to a joint report by the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto, and the SecDev Group in Ottawa.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/100208-skype-messages-being-monitored-in.html?page=1>

37. *October 1, United Press International* – (Florida) **Copper thieves allegedly posed as workers.** Police in Florida say that a group of copper thieves posed as utility workers to go into manholes and steal cable from under city streets. Five men were arrested Monday night in Riviera Beach, the Palm Beach (Florida) Post reported. The suspects, all from Miami, were charged with attempted burglary and possession of stolen property. Investigators said that the men allegedly used a van painted with the logos "Utility Service Contractors of Florida" and "Utility Maintenance & Repair Services Inc." and dressed in uniforms that looked like those worn by utility company employees. When they went to work at a manhole, they put orange cones around the site. The group allegedly made off with at least \$1 million worth of copper cable in Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/10/01/Copper_thieves_allegedly_posed_as_workers/UPI-39041222891669/

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Commercial Facilities Sector

38. *October 1, Bay Net MD* – (California) **Bomb threat at Wal-Mart causes a stir.** On Sept. 30 at approximately 6:48 pm., the Wal-Mart located at 45475 Miramar Way in California received a bomb threat called into the store. Wal-Mart called 911 to report the bomb threat and employees of Wal-Mart began evacuating the store as deputies, state troopers, and fire personnel responded. The store was evacuated. Six search teams consisting of one police officer, either a deputy or a trooper, one fire fighter, and one store manager searched the entire building. The search did not reveal any suspicious packages or explosive devices. The investigation is continuing.

Source: http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story_ID/10251

National Monuments & Icons Sector

39. *October 2, Reno Gazette-Journal* – (National) **Forest Service cuts budget for firefighting nationwide.** Soaring costs of fighting wildfires last summer forced the U.S. Forest Service to slash more than \$400 million in spending, affecting efforts to deal with fire in Nevada. Across the country, other strategies include closing campgrounds and limiting access to some forests. The trend is spurred by the rising cost of fighting fires balanced against the expense of other programs in the national forest system. The National Interagency Fire Center reported Wednesday that fires have burned more than 4.7 million acres. This year, the Forest Service expects to spend \$1.6 billion containing wildfires. The \$400 million cuts this year follow \$200 million in cuts in 2006 and \$100 million last year.

Source:

<http://www.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081002/NEWS06/810020334/1321/NEWS>

40. *October 2, Associated Press* – (California) **Los Padres forest fire now 13 percent contained.** Forecasters are expecting a break in the weather for the hundreds of firefighters battling a wildfire in the Los Padres National Forest. Fire officials say after expanding to a little more than 5,000 acres, the fire is now 13 percent contained.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10617393

41. *October 2, Fresno Bee* – (California) **Sequoia National Park fire fully contained.** After almost three weeks of digging and burning fire lines on steep mountainsides, firefighters have achieved 100 percent containment of the Hidden fire burning in Sequoia National Park.

Source: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-US.cfm?articleID=55323>

Dams Sector

42. *October 2, Chicago Tribune* – (Illinois) **2 construction projects awarded for \$26 million levee project on Des Plaines River.** A long-awaited plan to reduce flood damage along the Des Plaines River has moved a major step forward with the awarding of two construction contracts for a \$26 million levee project, officials have announced. Work to build the 10,000-foot earthen levee and flood wall will begin in the spring, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Tuesday. The project will include construction of pump stations and other flood-control features. Levee 37 is part of a \$72 million package of projects proposed more than a decade after devastating floods hit the Chicago area in 1986.

Source:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-propect-levee-both-02oct02,0,1388029.story>

43. *October 2, Waco Tribune Herald* – (Texas) **Officials addressing safety concerns for McLennan County dams.** The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality labeled 13 county dams as significant or high hazards, indicating that there are people living below the dams who would be in danger if the dams were ever breached. The dams originally were constructed as low-hazard dams, but the hazard levels were upgraded because the number of residents downstream from the dams has increased, officials said. The dams were evaluated as part of a routine inspection by the National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), an agency that monitors the quality and use of soil, water and other natural resources. The NRCS already has started developing emergency plans for some of the dams. Repairs for one of the Castleman Creek dams will begin in 2009, while construction on the other dam would begin in 2010. Each job will cost an estimated \$5,000 to \$6,000.
Source:
<http://www.wacotrib.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/10/02/10022008wacdams.html>
44. *September 30, Nature Conservancy* – (Wisconsin) **Failing dams at Crooked Creek Preserve to be removed.** The Nature Conservancy today announced that it would soon begin work to partially remove two half-century-old dams at its Crooked Creek Preserve. The dams are considered unsafe, and they have impacted the ecological health of the Mukwonago River by altering the river's flow and raising its temperature. The Conservancy will restore the land and water around the dams to their historic natural condition. The dams have been compromised with numerous holes from tree roots and muskrats. The Conservancy also consulted with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the project. The work is expected to cost about \$150,000 and is being paid for with a mix of state and federal grants as well as private money.
Source:
<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/wisconsin/press/press3711.html>
45. *September 30, Houma Today* – (Louisiana) **10-mile levee-protection gap has lawmaker urging action.** A 10-mile gap in levee protection between Terrebonne and Lafourche could flood large areas of Houma north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and communities in central Lafourche. The vulnerability tops a list of flood-protection needs. The problem is acknowledged by flood-protection officials but has largely been ignored.
Source:
http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20080930/ARTICLES/809300251/1211/NEWS01?Title=10_mile_levee_protection_gap_has_lawmaker_urging_action
46. *September 30, Pittsburg Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Donegal lake may be drained to repair dam.** Donegal is among dams that are unsafe, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Donegal Township officials are concerned that Donegal Lake could be drained next year unless needed repairs are made

on its dam. The major issue with most of the “High-Hazard Dams” is they do not meet requirements to ensure that their spillways have the capacity to handle the maximum flow of water under flood conditions. The Donegal Lake dam was included earlier this month in a DEP list of dams that pose the greatest risk of causing downstream problems in heavy rains. The list of 75 dams was compiled because many people who live downstream of the dams are unaware of heightened dangers during extreme rainfalls.

Source:

http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1572270/donegal_lake_may_be_drained_to_repair_dam/

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